

Preliminary Amendment

U.S. Patent Application No.: 10/047,440

53. (New) The calcined tantalum pentoxide powder of claim 23, wherein said calcined tantalum pentoxide powder comprises a fine single crystallite shape.

54. (New) The calcined tantalum pentoxide powder of claim 23, wherein said calcined tantalum pentoxide powder comprises spherical agglomerates.

55. (New) The calcined tantalum pentoxide powder of claim 23, further comprising a fluoride content of less than or equal to 500 ppm.

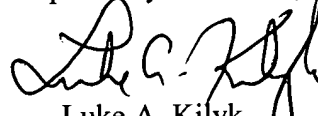
56. (New) The calcined tantalum pentoxide powder of claim 23, further comprising a fluoride content of less than or equal to 150 ppm.--

REMARKS

Prior to examination of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter these claims and consider them as part of the elected invention. Full support for these new claims can be found throughout the present application including the claims as originally filed. Accordingly, no questions of new matter should arise and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 03-0060. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Luke A. Kilyk
Registration No. 33,251

Attorney Docket No. 542,286CON(3600-226-01)
KILYK & BOWERSOX, P.L.L.C.
53 A East Lee Street
Warrenton, VA 20186
Tel.: (540) 428-1701
Fax: (540) 428-1720